IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-32 and 35 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add the cross-reference to the parent application. The specification has also been amended to insert the sequence identifiers. No new matter is introduced.

Claims 1-32 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice as drawn to non-elected embodiments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more divisional applications.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the amendment to the claims, captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

It is respectfully submitted that the present case is in condition for examination on merits, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Leopold Presser
Registration No. 19,827

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343
FSD/LP/XZ:ab

Enclosure: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Serial No.: TO BE ASSIGNED

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 2:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/436,164, filed on November 9, 1999.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 18 as follows:

--To monitor expression of Oct-4, RT-PCR was carried out on colonies consisting predominantly of stem cells, or colonies which had undergone spontaneous differentiation as described below. mRNA was isolated on magnetic beads (Dynal AS, Oslo) following cell lysis according to the manufacturer's instructions, and solid-phase first strand cDNA synthesis was performed using Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies). OCT-4 transcripts were assayed using the following primers: 5'-CGTTCTCTTTGGAAAGGTGTTC (forward) (SEQ ID NO: 1) and 3'-ACACTCGGACCACGTCTTTC (reverse) (SEQ ID NO: 2). As a control for mRNA quality, betaactin transcripts were assayed using the same RT-PCR and the following primers: 5'-CGCACCACTGGCATTGTCAT-3' (forward) (SEQ ID NO: 3), 5'-TTCTCCTTGATGTCACGCAC-3' (reverse) (SEQ ID NO: 4). Products were analyzed on a 1.5% agarose gel and visualized by ethidium bromide staining.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 19 as follows:

--Clusters of cells destined to give rise to neural precursors were identified by their characteristic morphological features in central areas of ES cell colonies 2-3 weeks after plating. The clusters were dissected mechanically by a micropipette and replated in fresh serum free

medium. Within 24 hours they formed spherical structures. The expression of the transcription factor PAX-6 and the intermediate filament nestin by these clusters was demonstrated by RT-PCR as described above. The following primers were used for PAX-6 and nestin respectively: Pax-6 forward primer, 5'AACAGACACAGCCCTCACAAACA3' (SEQ ID NO: 5); Pax-6 reverse primer, 5'CGGGAACTTGAACTGGAACTGAC3'(SEQ ID NO: 6); nestin forward primer, 5'CAGCTGGCGCACCTCAAGATG3' (SEQ ID NO: 7); nestin reverse primer, 5'AGGGAAGTTGGGCTCAGGACTGG3' (SEQ ID NO: 8).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-32 and 35 without prejudice.